

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 IO-03 EUR-10 FEAE-00

EB-03 COME-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 INT-01

EA-07 ARA-10 SCCT-01 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 081417Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 776

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EG, ZA

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

REF: STATE 220170

1. INVITATIONS TO EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DAY WERE RECEIVED BY AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER. IN ACCORD REFTTEL, EMBASSY WAS REPRESENTED BY POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER (FIRST SECRETARY LEVEL) ONLY.

2. IN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS WITH ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AMBASSADOR AL-ZAHID SPOKE OF EGYPTIAN ARMY'S CROSSING SUEZ CANAL LAST OCTOBER AND DECLARED THAT THE WAR HAD CHANGED PERCEPTION OF MID-EAST PROBLEM ON PART OF MANY COUNTRIES, NOTABLY U.S., WHICH NOW TAKE MORE BALANCED VIEW TOWARD MID-EAST ANTAGONISTS. AL-ZAHID
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CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 242 AND

FOR PARTICIPATION OF PLO AT GENEVA TALKS AS SOLE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE. IN RESPONSE, FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA ENDORSED CALL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 242 BUT CAREFULLY AVOIDED SPECIFYING PLO IN SAYING "REPRESENTATIVES CHOSEN BY PALESTINIANS" SHOULD BE PRESENT AT GENEVA PARLEY. MWAANGA ALSO NOTED GRZ HAD BROKEN WITH ISRAEL FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE ONLY. NEVERTHELESS, ZAMBIA DISAPPOINTED AT BEING HARD HIT BY HIGH OIL PRICES. SAID GRZ CONTINUING CONTACT WITH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES (HASTILY INTERJECTING THIS INCLUDED BOTH ARAB AND NON-ARAB PRODUCERS) TO OBTAIN EQUITABLE OIL PRICES. REMARKS ON OIL PRICE WERE RECEIVED WITH AUDIBLE AMUSEMENT AND APPROBATION BY MANY ZAMBIANS PRESENT AND WERE FEATURED IN PRESS REPORT OF EGYPTIAN RECEPTION.

3. IN CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT, PRESIDENT KAUNDA EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR DETERMINATION AND COURAGE OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST "ZIONIST IMPERIALISM."

4. ON OCT 6, LEADING ITEM ON 10- MINUTE TV EVENING NEWS PROGRAM WAS REFERENCE TO EGYPTIAN COMMEMORATION OF OCT 6 CROSSING OF CANAL ALONG WITH FILMS OF THAT OPERATION. PRESS CARRIED WIRE SERVICE NEWS ITEM OCT 8 REPORTING CAIRO CELEBRATIONS, INCLUDING MILITARY PARADE.

5. AT EAST GERMAN RECEPTION LAST NIGHT, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE SEPARATELY ASKED ABOUT MY ABSENCE FROM THEIR "NATIONAL DAY." THOUGH REMINDED NATIONAL DAY HAD BEEN HELD IN JULY AND WE UNDERSTOOD OCT 6 WAS ARMED FORCES DAY, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR STUCK TO NATIONAL DAY CHARADE AND ENDED WITH "WELCOME BACK (FROM U.S.) ANYWAY."

6. OUR DANISH COLLEAGUE TOLD US HE FELT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE ATTENDED EGYPTIAN RECEPTION AND HE HAD IMPRESSION FOREIGN MINISTER SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED AS WELL. DUTCH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS WERE ANNOYED AT BEING CALLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUT TO SECOND EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DAY THIS YEAR.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC STABILITY, PETROLEUM, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, INVITATIONS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUSAKA02067
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740285-0584
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741064/aaaaccy.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 220170
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EG, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005